

Wayne Allard

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CONTACT: Angela de Rocha at (202) 224-5944

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**STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATOR WAYNE ALLARD
REGARDING FEDERAL COURT RULING
ON NEBRASKA'S STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
IN DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) made the following statement Thursday after a federal district court judge in Nebraska struck down that state's constitutional amendment in defense of marriage.

“A federal judge in Nebraska has ruled, in essence, that traditional marriage is somehow discriminatory, and that the State of Nebraska and the people of Nebraska are not free to defend marriage for themselves.

“This ruling has increased the urgency of our national dialogue. An activist federal judge has undone the will of the 70 percent of Nebraska voters who endorsed the measure.

“Critics of the federal Marriage Protection Amendment can no longer claim, as they have done, that the amendment I have introduced is premature because no federal judge had struck down a state Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a state constitutional amendment defending marriage, or the federal DOMA.

“They also argued that the states are handling this by passing their own amendments and state DOMAs. This ruling proves both arguments to be wrong.

“A lot of the Marriage Protection Amendment opponents have cited concerns over states' rights. According to the judiciary, states only have rights when it comes to throwing out traditional marriage; they don't have the right to protect it.

“The message is clear: these decisions are no longer being left to the individual states. If it is not up to the states, Congress has a responsibility to weigh in in defense of traditional marriage, rather than allow the courts to seize this decision-making authority from the people or their elected representatives. Congress answers to the people, activist judges are indifferent to the will of the people.”

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